



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DIVISION, GREAT LAKES AND OHIO RIVER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1159
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45201-1159

CELRD-PDS-P

8 November 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Chicago District

SUBJECT: Major Subordinate Command (MSC) Approval of the Peer Review Plan for Grand Calumet River Section 312 Feasibility Study

1. The Peer Review Plan for the Grand Calumet River Section 312 Feasibility Study (attachment 1) has been presented to the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division for approval in accordance with memorandum from Major General Don T. Riley, Director of Civil Works, and subject titled "Peer Review Process" dated 30 March 2007.
2. The objective of the Grand Calumet River Environmental Dredging Feasibility Study is to investigate and recommend remediation alternatives, including dredging and disposal of the contaminated sediments in the Grand Calumet River and in the non-federal portions of the Indiana Harbor and Lake George Canals, Indiana, and ecosystem restoration within the river channel and wetland shelves. Estimated implementation costs range from \$220-270 million. The study is being conducted under Section 312 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 1990, as amended, which provides authority for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to participate in the removal of contaminated sediments (a) outside of the boundaries of and adjacent to Federal navigation projects as part of operations and maintenance, and (b) for the purposes of ecosystem restoration, not related to operations and maintenance of navigation channels.
3. The purpose of a peer review plan is to assign the appropriate level and review independence, establish the procedures, and assign responsibilities for conducting the Independent Technical Review (ITR) and External Peer Review (EPR). This peer review plan is compliant with the requirements of the Corps Peer Review Process, which is documented in EC1105-2-408, dated 31 May 2005, and has been recommended by the Ecosystem Restoration Planning Center of Expertise (ECO-PCX). The recommendation from the ECO-PCX is provided as attachment 2.
4. Policy compliance and quality management verification for the Grand Calumet River Section 312 Feasibility Study Peer Review Plan have been completed. Division staff has confirmed the Peer Review Plan has been formulated in accordance with current policy and concurs with the recommendation provided by the ECO-PCX for an integrated review process including independent technical review (ITR) and limited external peer review (EPR) focusing on the appropriateness of using the

published biological indices in the formulation and decision making processes for the Grand Calumet River Study.

5. The District is advised the "limited" nature of the EPR is contingent upon the project not requiring full Congressional authorization as the District has continued to indicate that the project will be implemented fully under the Section 312 authority. It is noted that the entire vertical team is in agreement with this approach. In the event that full Congressional authorization is necessary, a reevaluation of a need for an EPR for the full feasibility study must take place.
6. The District is requested to post the Peer Review Plan to its web site and provide a link to the ECO-PCX for their use. Prior to posting, the names of individuals in the PRP should be removed.
7. The Peer Review Plan for the Grand Calumet River Section 312 Feasibility Study is approved by the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, Chief of Planning and Policy Division. Point of Contact for this effort is Dr. Hank Jarboe (513) 684-6050 (CELRD-PDS-P).



THEODORE A. BROWN, P.E., M.B.A.
Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

cf: CECW-LRD (Lang)
CELRD-RB (Dale)
CELRD-PD (White)
CELRD-GL (Miller)